

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A service managing apparatus for managing an information transmission service in which ~~video/audio information~~digital content is sent in real time between communication devices connected to each other over a network, the apparatus comprising:

a communication controlling means for controlling the communication with each of the communication devices;

an information registering means for ~~maintaining registering registration~~ information on more than one piece of ~~video/audio information~~digital content available from those of the communication devices that are registered as an information provider as information to be registered; and

an information managing means for dynamically generating, based on the ~~registered registration~~ information, choices-window information from which selection is made of a desired one of the plurality of pieces of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content ~~for by those of the communication devices that are~~ to receive the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content,

the information managing means updating, when the ~~information registering means~~registration information has been updated based on updating information reflecting the current status of the information provider, the choices-window information on the basis of the ~~updated registered information~~updated registration information, wherein the choices-window information includes information indicative of whether the communication device that is the information provider can currently provide the offered digital content in real time, and

wherein the communication controlling means controls the connection between the communication device that receives the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content and the communication device that is the information provider, with sends the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content being provided in real time when it is indicated as currently available in real time.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the information managing means generates the choices-window information from which selection is available only for video/audio content that can currently be provided in real time.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the updating information includes ~~information indicative of whether the information provider can currently provide the offered video/audio information in real time and~~ types of more than one media which can be used for the real-time provision of the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the information managing means receives the registered information and registers it into the information registering means; and
the communication device receives the updating information and updates the registered information.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the communication controlling means receives the updating information from the communication device which provides the ~~video/audio information~~digital content in real time.

8. (Currently Amended) A service managing method of managing an information transmission service in which ~~video/audio information~~digital content is sent in real time between communication devices connected to each other over a network, the method comprising:

an information managing step in which, referring to an information registering means in which information on more than one piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content available from those of the communication devices that are registered as an information provider is registered-maintained as registered-registration information, there is dynamically generated choices-window information from which selection is made of a desired one of the plurality of pieces of

offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content ~~for by those of the communication devices that is are~~
to receive the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content,

an information updating step of updating, when the ~~information registering~~
~~means~~registration information has been updated based on updating information reflecting the
current status of the information provider, the choices-window information on the basis of the
~~updated registered information~~updated registration information, wherein the choices-window
information includes information indicative of whether the communication device that is the
information provider can currently provide the offered digital content in real time, and

a controlling step of controlling the connection between the communication device that
receives the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content and the communication
device that ~~is the information provider, with~~ sends the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio~~
~~information~~digital content being provided in real time when it is indicated as currently available in
real time.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9~~8~~, wherein in the information
managing step, there is generated the choices-window information from which selection is available
only for ~~video/audio~~digital content that can currently be provided in real time.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the updating
information includes ~~information indicative of whether the information provider can currently~~
~~provide the offered video/audio information in real time~~, and types of more than one media which
can be used for the real-time provision of the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~12~~~~8~~, wherein in the information
updating step, the choices-window information is updated based on the registered information

updated with the updating information received from the communication device which provides the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content in real time.

14. (Currently Amended) A service providing system which provides an information transmission service in which ~~video/audio information~~digital content is sent in real time between communication devices connected to each other over a network, the system comprising:

a plurality of communication devices to provide or receive offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content to be provided by an information provider or to be used by an information user, respectively, each as a user of the information transmission service,

each of the communication devices including a communication means for sending or receiving offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content to or from the other communication device as a counterpart; and

a service management device connected to each of the communication devices via a network to manage the information transmission service,

the service management device including:

a communication controlling means for controlling the communication with each of the communication devices;

an information registering means for ~~maintaining registering registration~~ information on more than one piece of ~~video/audio information~~digital content available from ~~those of the communication devices that are registered as the information provider as information to be registered~~information providers; and

an information managing means for dynamically generating, based on the ~~registered registration~~ information, choices-window information from which selection is made of a desired one of the plurality of pieces of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content ~~for by those of the communication devices that are~~is to receive the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content,

the information managing means updating, when the ~~information registering means~~registration information has been updated based on updating information reflecting the current status of the information provider, the choices-window information on the basis of the

~~updated registered information~~updated registration information, wherein the choices-window information includes information indicative of whether the communication device that is the information provider can currently provide the offered digital content in real time, and

wherein the communication controlling means controls the connection between the communication device that receives the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content and the communication device that ~~sends is the information provider, with~~ the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content being provided in real time when it is indicated as currently available in real time.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein:

~~the updating information includes information indicative of whether the information provider can currently provide the offered video/audio information in real time and user identification information for identification of the information use;~~

~~the communication device to send the offered video/audio information sends the updating information to the communication controlling means via the communication means; and~~

the communication controlling means updates the information registering means ~~with the possibility/impossibility of real time provision information included in the updating information~~ when the information user has been authenticated with the user identification information..

17. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 16, wherein:

the updating information includes media information indicative of the type of a media which can be used by the communication device to send the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content when providing the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content; and

the communication controlling means updates the information registering means with the information indicative of whether the information provider can currently provide the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content and media information included in the updating information.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein:

the updating information includes information indicative of the position of the communication device which sends the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content; and

the connection controlling means controls, based on the position information, the connection between the communication device for which selection of the desired offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content is made and that which sends the selected offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content.

20. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein:

the communication device includes a call controlling means for sending and receiving a connection control signal for controlling the connection with the communication device as a counterpart in addition to the sending and reception of the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content; and

the connection controlling means receives the connection control signal from the call controlling means in the communication device and controls the connection between both the communication devices.

21. (Currently Amended) A service providing method for a service providing system including a plurality of communication devices to send or receive offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content to be provided by an information provider or to be used by an information user, respectively, each as a user of the information transmission service in which information is sent from one of communication devices connected to each other over a network to the other, and vice versa, in real time, and a service management device connected to each of the communication devices via the network to manage the information transmission service, the method comprising:

an information registering step in which information on more than one piece of offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content available from ~~the~~ those of the communication devices that

are registered as information providers is ~~registered-maintained~~ as ~~registered-registration~~ information into an information registering means of the service management device;

an information managing step in which, referring to an information registering means of the information management device in the service management device, there is dynamically generated choices-window information from which an information user of the offered ~~video/audio~~ informationdigital content selects a desired one of the plurality of pieces of offered ~~video/audio~~ informationdigital content for the communication device that is to receive the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio~~ informationdigital content;

a registered information updating step of updating the registration information ~~registering~~ means on the basis of updating information reflecting the current status of the information provider;

a choices-window information updating step in which an information management means updates, when the information registering means has been updated based on the updating information, the choices-window information on the basis of the ~~updated-registered~~ informationupdated registration information, wherein the choices-window information includes information indicative of whether the communication device that is the information provider can currently provide the offered digital content in real time; and

a controlling step of controlling the connection between the communication device that receives the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio~~ informationdigital content and the communication device that is the information provider, with sends the desired piece of offered ~~video/audio~~ informationdigital content being provided in real time when it is indicated as currently available in real time.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein:

the updating information includes ~~information indicative of whether the information provider can currently provide the offered video/audio information in real time and media~~ information indicative of the type of a media which can be used when providing the offered ~~video/audio~~ informationdigital content; and

in the choices-window information updating step, the choices-window information is made to reflect the information indicative of whether the information provider can currently provide the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content in real time and media information included in the updating information.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein:

the updating information is indicative of the position of the communication device which sends the offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content; and in the controlling step, there is controlled, based on the position information, the connection between the communication device which sends the selected offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content and that which has selected the desired offered ~~video/audio information~~digital content.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the digital content is video content.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the digital content is audio content.

28. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the digital content is video content.

29. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the digital content is audio content.

30. (New) The system according to claim 14, wherein the digital content is video content.

31. (New) The system according to claim 14, wherein the digital content is audio content.

32. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the digital content is video content.

33. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the digital content is audio content.